REMARKS

Claim Status

Claims 1-4, 7-9, 11-13, 15-20, 22-31, and 33-39 will be pending in the application after entry of the above amendments. This paper proposes to amend claims 1, 4, 11, 13, 20, 22, 23, 25, 27, 31, and 34; and to cancel claims 5, 6, 10, 14, 21, and 32 without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 1, 11, 20, 22, 25, and 31 will be the independent claims of the application.

Allowable Subject Matter and Entry of Amendments

In the Final Office Action, Examiner Bayerl objected to claims 6, 14, 20, 22, 24-26, 32, 34, and 35, as being dependent upon rejected base claims. Examiner Bayerl noted that these claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of their base claims and any intervening claims. Applicant and the undersigned attorney gratefully acknowledge the notification of allowable subject matter in claims 6, 14, 20, 22, 24-26, 32, 34, and 35.

Independent claim 1 has been amended to incorporate all limitations of former claims 5 and 6. The scope of the amended claim 1 is the same as the scope of the former claim 6, which had previously been determined to contain allowable subject matter. For these reasons, claim 1 should now be allowable. Each of the claims 2-4 and 7-9 depends directly or indirectly from the allowable claim 1. Therefore, claims 2-4 and 7-9 are also allowable.

Independent claim 11 has been amended to incorporate all limitations of former claim 14.

The scope of the amended claim 11 is the same as the scope of the former claim 14, which had

previously been determined to contain allowable subject matter. For these reasons, claim 11 should now be allowable. Each of the claims 12, 13, and 15-19 depends directly or indirectly from the allowable claim 11. Therefore, claims 12, 13, and 15-19 are also allowable.

Claim 20 has been rewritten in independent form, including all of the limitations of its former base claim 11. There were no intervening claims. The scope of claim 20 is therefore unchanged. Claim 20 had previously been determined to contain allowable subject matter. For these reasons, claim 20 should now be allowable.

Claim 22 has been rewritten in independent form, including all of the limitations of its base claim 21. There were no intervening claims. The scope of claim 22 is therefore unchanged. Claim 22 had previously been determined to contain allowable subject matter. For these reasons, claim 22 should now be allowable. Each of the claims 23, 24, and 27-30 depends directly or indirectly from the allowable claim 22. Therefore, claims 23, 24, and 27-30 are also allowable.

Claim 25 has been rewritten in independent form, including all of the limitations of its base claim 21. There were no intervening claims. The scope of claim 25 is therefore unchanged. Claim 25 had previously been determined to contain allowable subject matter. For these reasons, claim 25 should now be allowable.

Independent claim 31 has been amended to incorporate all limitations of former claim 32. The scope of the amended claim 31 is the same as the scope of the former claim 32, which had previously been determined to contain allowable subject matter. For these reasons, claim 31 should now be allowable. Each of the claims 33-39 depends directly or indirectly from the allowable claim 31. Therefore, claims 33-39 are also allowable.

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Thus, all claims that will remain pending after entry of the above amendments are allowable.

The amendments do not raise new issues and require only a cursory review by the Examiner.

The amendments may therefore be entered. See MPEP § 714.13(II); 37 C.F.R. § 1.116(b)(2) & (3).

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CONCLUSION

For the foregoing reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that all pending claims are

patentable. To discuss any matter pertaining to the present application, the Examiner is invited to

call the undersigned attorney at (858) 720-9431.

Having made an effort to bring the application in condition for allowance, a timely notice to

this effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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